

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 302100Z NOV 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9391

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 16673

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, US, IS

SUBJ: AMOCO'S SEISMIC WORK IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF TEL AVIV 8085

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL WE CONTACTED ROSS CRAIG, AMOCO EGYPT MANGER, TO TELL HIM WE DID NOT YET HAVE WORD BACK FROM GOI REGARDING OUR APPROACH ON AMOCO'S SEISMIC PROGRAM IN GULF OF SUEZ. WE URGED HIM TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT POINT OUT IN PARTICULAR EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S CAUTION THAT AMOCO VESSEL CONTINUE STAY WELL WEST OF MEDIAN LINE. CRAIG SAID HE GRATEFUL FOR OUR KEEPING HIM INFORMED, HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT JUSTIFY A FURTHER DELAY IN SEISMIC PROGRAM. WITH EGYPTIAN HOLIDAYS NOW IN FULL FORCE, CRAIG SAID THAT HIS ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO BEGIN RUNNING EAST-WEST LINES ON MORNING DEC 1, WEATHER PERMITTING. IF IN PROCESS COMPLETING PROGRAM SEISMIC VESSEL CROSSES SO-CALLED MEDIAN LINE AND ISRAELIS INTERCEPT VESSEL, CAPTAIN WILL OBEY WHATEVER INSTRUCTIONS ARE GIVEN TO HIM. CRAIG EMPHASIZED HE NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION, BUT OBSERVED ISRAELIS NOW KNOW INNOCENT NATURE OF VESSEL'S MISSION. HE HOPED GOI WILL NOT MOLEST VESSEL BUT HE PREPARED FOR THIS POSSIBILITY.

2. GIVEN CRAIG'S JUDGEMENT (WHICH WE ASSUME REFLECTS HIS HOME OFFICE INSTRUCTIONS) WE FEEL THERE IS LITTLE MORE THAT CAN BE DONE HERE TO DELAY SEISMIC WORK ANY LONGER. WE LEAVE
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DECISION TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV TO INFORM GOI OF AMOCO INTENTIONS

AND REASON FOR THEM.

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Message Attributes

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